

## Kids and air bags



Air bags save lives. When there is a crash, front air bags open and cushion the driver and front-seat passenger from the force of an impact. For children, this air bag force is too strong and can seriously injure or even kill them. Read your vehicle's air bag safety recommendations, typically located on the front-seat visor of the vehicle.

### When are air bags dangerous?

Air bags are most dangerous to:

- A child riding in a rear-facing car seat in the front seat.
- Any child under the age of 13 in the front seat.
- An adult not wearing a seat belt.
- A driver sitting very close to the steering wheel.
- A passenger sitting very close to the dashboard.

### Air bag safety

- Check both your vehicle owner's manual and car seat instruction manual for directions on car seat installation near an air bag.



### What if there is no back seat?

- The safest recommendation is to use another vehicle that has a back seat.
- Never place a rear-facing child seat in the front seat in front of an air bag. It is not safe and can cause serious injury or death.
- If a forward-facing child must be transported in the front seat, the child should be appropriately restrained for their age, weight, and height.
- The vehicle seat should be placed as far away from the dashboard and air bag as possible.
- If the vehicle has an air bag on-off switch, turn it off when a child rides in front. Turn it back on to protect teens and adults.

### When can older kids ride in front?

- Wisconsin law states that children in rear-facing or forward-facing car seats must ride in the back seat.
- The safest recommendation is that all children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat, because their muscles and bone structure are not fully developed.

### Resources

#### Car seat resources and information:

[childrenswi.org/carseats](http://childrenswi.org/carseats)

#### Car seat installation and check events:

[safekidswi.org/events](http://safekidswi.org/events)

**Email:** [carseatwi@childrenswi.org](mailto:carseatwi@childrenswi.org)

**Phone:** (855) 224-3692

Proper fit is the key to safety.

